

April 16, 2002

Senate Democrats Voted to Make '93 Tax Increase Permanent

As Congress begins debate on making the Bush Tax Cut permanent it is important to keep in mind two crucial facts:

1. The reason the Bush Tax Cut isn't already permanent is because Senate Democrats opposed the Bush Tax Cut (it takes 60 votes in the Senate to make a tax cut permanent, but only 51 to make it temporary).
2. In 1993, Senate Democrats overwhelmingly voted to make the largest tax increase in history permanent rather than temporary as proposed by Republicans (ironically, it only took 50 votes to make this tax increase permanent, not 60).

On June 24, 1993, the Senate voted on a motion to waive a point of order against an amendment offered by Senator Bob Dole that would sunset in 1998 the tax increases proposed in the 1993 Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act. The motion to waive the point of order was defeated 48 to 50 (RC # 173). Consequently, the Dole Amendment was struck on a point of order. A vote against waiving the point of order was a de facto vote to make the proposed tax increases permanent. Among the tax increases included in the bill were an increase in the tax on Social Security benefits, an increase in the gas tax, an increase in personal income taxes, and an increase in corporate taxes.

Those voting to waive the point of order thereby permitting a vote on sunsetting the tax increases were 43 of the 43 Republicans voting and 5 of 55 Democrats voting. The Democrats who voted to waive the point of order were: DeConcini, Kohl, Lautenberg, Lieberman, and Shelby (who is now a Republican).

Those voting against the motion to waive and thereby preclude a vote on sunsetting the tax increases included 50 of 55 Democrats voting: Akaka, Baucus, Biden, Bingaman, Boren, Boxer, Bradley, Breaux, Bryan, Bumpers, Byrd, Campbell, Conrad, Daschle, Dodd, Dorgan, Exon, Feingold, Feinstein, Ford, Glenn, Graham, Harkin, Heflin, Hollings, Inouye, Johnston, Kennedy, Kerrey, Kerry, Leahy, Levin, Mathews, Metzenbaum, Mikulski, Mitchell, Moseley-Braun, Moynihan, Nunn, Pell, Pryor, Reid, Riegle, Robb, Rockefeller, Sarbanes, Sasser, Simon, Wellstone, Wofford.

Of the 31 Democrats who opposed the Bush Tax Cut last year:

- 17 voted to make the 1993 tax increase permanent (Biden, Byrd, Conrad, Daschle, Dodd, Dorgan, Feingold, Graham, Hollings, Inouye, Kennedy, Levin, Mikulski, Reid, Rockefeller, Sarbanes, and Wellstone);
- 13 were not in the Senate at the time (Bayh, Cantwell, Carper, Clinton, Corzine, Dayton, Durbin, Edwards, Nelson, Reed, Schumer, Stabenow, and Wyden); and
- 1 voted to sunset the 1993 tax increase (Lieberman).

For Additional Information:

<http://www.senate.gov/~rpc/rva/1031/1031173.htm>